

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 15, 2010
POSITION: Support

BILL NUMBER: AB 2351
AUTHOR: W. Chesbro

BILL SUMMARY: Forest Resources: Demonstration State Forests

Existing law authorizes money in the Forest Resources Improvement Fund to be expended for the cost of operations associated with the management of state lands operated as demonstration state forests by the Department of Forestry and Fire protection (CAL FIRE). This bill would authorize CAL FIRE to collect recreational user fees for overnight camping and reserved group activities in a demonstration state forest.

FISCAL SUMMARY

At this time the amount of revenues received from the camping and reserved activities fees that would be deposited into the Forest Resources Improvement Fund are unknown. However, this bill would provide CAL FIRE with a more reliable funding source for maintaining and improving the demonstration state forests. There would be no increased cost to implement this bill and no additional staff would be required. Fees would be collected by staff as a part of existing maintenance and recreation management activities.

COMMENTS

Finance supports this bill as it would provide CAL FIRE with a reliable funding source to maintain and improve the demonstration state forests without increasing staff or adding General Fund costs.

The majority of the demonstration state forests were purchased by the State in the late 1940s for the purpose of research and demonstration into sustainable forestry and economical forestry practices. The demonstration state forests currently provide essentially the same level of recreation services as the California State Parks. However, there are fewer rules in the demonstration state forests than in the State Parks, primarily because the demonstration state forests are working forests with an active use mandate. Recreation activities, primarily camping, have traditionally been free of charge in the demonstration state forests, however, recreation use has expanded significantly over time increasing the amount of limited staff resources required to manage recreation activities and maintain recreation infrastructure.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	Code
1614/Misc Revenue	RV	No	----- See Fiscal Summary -----						0928
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0928	Forest Resources Improvement Fund								

Analyst/Principal (0634) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
-------------------------------------	------	--------------------------------------	------

Department Deputy Director	Date
----------------------------	------

Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)